



# Township High School District 211

## Community Connections:

### A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan

July 2018

## Student Readiness Plan: GPS to Success

Following a semester-long pilot by 500 students, the District 211 Student Readiness Plan will be available for district-wide usage this fall.

The Student Readiness Plan, accessible on each student's District-issued iPad device, is an individual student resource that allows students to organize and track their progress of five key components of student readiness for graduation and their lives after high school: Academic Readiness, College and Career Exploration, Global Competitive Skills, Student Involvement, and Wellness. The Plan integrates multiple facets of a student's guidance and educational program. With the Student Readiness Plan, students will not only be able to set and track goals for each of the five readiness components, they also will be able to check grades in real time, access student email, check their personal calendar, and even schedule an appointment to meet with their school counselor.

The idea of the Student Readiness Plan emerged from the District's Community Engagement initiative, and its development was funded completely through a grant from the Joyce Foundation. While students have complete control over individualized goals in the Student Readiness Plan, parents, as well as counselors and teachers, will have access to view students' plans in order to counsel and assist in their planning.

Additional information on the Student Readiness Plan is available at <https://adc.d211.org/StudentReadiness>, including a 90-second video trailer about the Plan.



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## Wellness: a crucial piece of Student Readiness

With the full implementation of the new Student Readiness Plan, one of the key components is student wellness. This component focuses on physical, emotional, and social wellness. The goal of the District wellness program is for students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to attain and maintain healthy levels of well-being. To help improve the focus on wellness, a Freshman Wellness course has been designed with the dimensions of wellness, fitness, healthy decision making, communication and nutrition as the foundation. This course incorporates the requirements of both a standalone health and physical education course, includes an increase of credits from .25 to .5 credits per semester, and begins with the Class of 2022.



In order to expand wellness courses and keep more teachers available to teach the Freshman Wellness course, District 211 has made changes to its driver's education program. The Board of Education approved a contract with a local private commercial driving school to provide the behind-the-wheel instruction for students in driver's education courses. This contract will allow District 211 teachers who previously were responsible for this portion of the driver's education course to focus on teaching the new wellness portions of the physical education curriculum (*For more information, please refer to the article on the right, "District 211's new driver education model for behind-the-wheel"*).

## District 211's new driver education model for behind-the-wheel

At its May 10, 2018 meeting, the High School District 211 Board of Education approved a proposal allowing the District to contract out the behind-the-wheel (BTW) portion of driver's education classes, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Historically, all instruction for students enrolled in driver education during the regular school year was provided by District 211 teachers, including both a classroom component of 30 hours of instruction and six hours of BTW instruction. The District staffing plan ensured that all students received these hours of instruction under an efficient staffing schedule. Yet, the driver education program was costly with some sections of driver education requiring as many as five teachers, one for the classroom and four for BTW instruction.

Under the new instructional model, District 211 teachers will continue to provide classroom instruction; however, the BTW instruction will be provided from a private commercial driving school using Illinois State Board of Education licensed instructors with a driver education endorsement. Applying the previous model, the District would have employed 11.2 full-time teachers to cover both the classroom and BTW instruction for students District-wide. It is anticipated that with the third-party instruction for BTW, 8.4 teachers can be redeployed to instruct the District's student wellness initiative that integrates health and fitness topics throughout all four years of high school (*For more information, please refer to the article on the left, "Wellness: a crucial piece of Student Readiness"*). It also is estimated that the District will realize a cost savings of more than \$500,000 annually as a result of this change.

# District 211 continues improving safety and security measures at all schools

As part of on-going improvements to school safety and security, High School District 211 is improving and adding a variety of security features in each school.

One aspect being implemented at all schools will be an improved public address and emergency communication system. This summer, each school also is adding emergency lockdown pull stations that, when activated, will immediately initiate lockdown protocols. Additional lockdown pull stations will be added at each building later in the school year. Both the public address system and lockdown pull station installations will include time for training with the new systems prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

The District also has begun the installation of Radio Frequency Identification card scanning points at a number of exterior doors in each building. Each scanner is tied into the building's camera system, made possible through upgrades to all building camera systems.

District 211 staff, in cooperation with local police and firefighters, have participated in annual emergency drills. Administrators at each school conducted a minimum of

three school evacuation (fire) drills, one bus evacuation drill, and one severe weather/shelter in place (tornado) drill. Two lockdown drills at each school also were conducted in coordination with law enforcement.

Every year, District 211 school and District administrators meet with police, and fire officials to review emergency drills, emergency protocols, and physical security for each school. These safety reviews are extremely valuable for testing responses to emergencies and helping improve safety practices and emergency preparedness. The input from local police and fire departments continues to form the basis of how students and staff are educated to respond to safety threats.

This training and ongoing communication ensures seamless partnerships with local emergency-response agencies, aiding in the safety of students and staff throughout the District.



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## Harper Promise Scholarship reminder

HARPER COLLEGE  
**PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP**



Students participating in the Harper Promise Scholarship program must turn in their 2017-2018 community service forms to their high school's student services office by July 16 in order to maintain scholarship eligibility. The reporting form can be accessed on the Harper Promise Scholarship page on the District 211 website at: <https://adc.d211.org/Page/4916>.

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## Update - District 211 Interpreter Pool - Translators Needed

High School District 211 is committed to reach families of all languages and has initiated an interpreter pool of people to provide assistance with translations. The languages currently represented within the District 211 interpreter pool are Spanish, Polish, Urdu, and Gujarati.

Those interested in serving as an interpreter or translator are encouraged to contact Jerry Treviño, director of summer school and community outreach, at 847-755-6725 or via email at [jtrevino@d211.org](mailto:jtrevino@d211.org).



Learn more about Township High School District 211 – visit <http://adc.d211.org>